



RICHARD J. CODEY
Acting Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



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April 27, 2005

By Certified and Regular Mail

Thomas S. Trotter, V.M.D., Director
Red Bank Veterinary Hospital
210 Newman Springs Road
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701

Re: I/M/O THOMAS S. TROTTER, V.M.D.
Complaint Number: 03-103

Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding

Dear Dr. Trotter:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information it received concerning Suzanne Govier, D.V.M., and her conduct at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital ("Red Bank," of which you are a Director.

Specifically, the information reviewed by the Board included, but is not limited to, the following documents:

1. A complaint filed by Cynthia and Ralph Salzano with the Board's administrative office in or about December 2003, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and
2. Patient records from Red Bank Veterinary Hospital concerning a ten (10) year old Cairn Terrier named "Bailey," as well as any and all attachments and exhibits.

RECEIVED and FILED by the
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
on this date of: 5-17-05

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you permitted an unlicensed person to perform an act for which a license or certificate of registration is required by the board or aided and abetted an unlicensed person in performing such an act, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n), in that you hired a veterinarian for Red Bank who was not licensed in New Jersey and permitted her to engage in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:16-9.

Specifically, the Board's review into this matter revealed that the owners, Cynthia and Ralph Salzano, filed a complaint, alleging professional misconduct, against the veterinarian treating their Cairn Terrier, "Bailey," with the Board. The treating veterinarian had referred Bailey to Red Bank on or about November 20, 2003 for pancreatitis. The Board's investigation into this complaint revealed information which indicated that an unlicensed veterinarian, Suzanne Govier, D.V.M. ("Govier,") subsequently examined Bailey, and thereafter engaged in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine by prescribing medication referring the dog for an abdominal ultrasound, in your hospital, Red Bank.

The Board's review has also revealed that Govier applied for New Jersey licensure as a veterinarian in or about August 2003. She was later advised that her application had been administratively denied for her failure to meet and satisfy New Jersey licensure requirements for graduates of veterinary institutions that are not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. The documentation considered by the Board indicates that Govier was hired by your hospital in or about late September 2003 in what has been dubbed a "consulting" capacity. In this capacity, the Board concluded that Govier: 1) reported to Red Bank full-time daily from the date she began at the hospital; 2) accompanied licensees on rounds in the hospital; 3) performed certain functions on said rounds; and 4) was paid an annual fee of \$110,000.00 per year. The Board has subsequently concluded that this conduct does not constitute "consultation" as contemplated by N.J.S.A. 45:16-8.1(1) which exempts certain conduct from the practice of veterinary medicine.

The Board has reviewed the entire record established in this matter and preliminarily concludes that you permitted an unlicensed person to perform an act for which a license or certificate of registration is required by the board or aided and abetted an unlicensed person in performing such an act, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n), in that you negotiated and hired a

veterinarian for Red Bank who prescribed medication to Bailey and referred the dog for an abdominal ultrasound in Red Bank without a license to practice veterinary medicine in New Jersey. As one of the Directors of the hospital, the Board finds that you are responsible for the daily operations of the facility in addition to the hiring of the professional staff.

At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that determination, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. Cease and desist from permitted an unlicensed person to perform an act for which a license or certificate of registration is required by the board or aided and abetted an unlicensed person in performing such an act, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n); and
2. Pay a penalty in the amount of **\$2,500.00**, to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, for your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n).

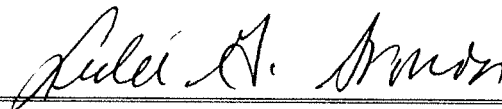
If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. In such event, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford, who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of the appropriate enforcement action.

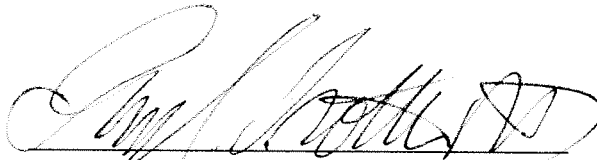
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____



LESLIE G. ARONSON
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **THOMAS S. TROTTER, V.M.D.**, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of **\$2,500.00** which is to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment, as well as comply with the other enumerated provisions, for violating N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n).



THOMAS S. TROTTER, V.M.D.

DATED:

cc: Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford
RR: 7000 1670 0010 5704 9935